

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary**

September 16, 2014, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

All presentations are posted on the MassDEP website at

[www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/solid-waste-advisory-committee.html](http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/solid-waste-advisory-committee.html).

### **MassDEP Updates**

John Fischer provided the following updates:

- Upcoming events include:
  - The SWANA conference is scheduled for October 7 at Hyannis, MA. Online registration is currently open [here](#).
  - The Environmental Business Council's [Forum on Solid Waste](#) is being held on September 26.
  - MassRecycle is hosting a [webinar](#) focused on mattress recycling issues and strategies on September 25.
  - The next SEMRC meeting is being held on September 17 at Middleboro Town Hall at 8.45 am and will focus on composting strategies.
- The updated 2013 Waste Characterization Study data is available on MassDEP's website. This data presents a snapshot of the waste stream in Massachusetts and is conducted every 3 years. The 2010 study was conducted in the Fall/Winter and showed that the waste stream contained 43% banned materials. This number dropped slightly in the most recent 2013 study conducted in Spring/Summer, which indicated the banned materials comprised 40% of the waste stream. These numbers do not include food waste as a banned material and were captured prior to the increase in MassDEP waste ban inspections. Total organic materials, including compostable paper, were 34.4 % of the 2013 spring and summer sampling, compared with 27% in the 2010 fall and winter sampling. The individual facility reports along with MassDEP's summary data are available on the MassDEP website [here](#).

### **Overview of Changes to Third Party Inspections, Paul Emond**

Paul Emond presented a summary and update to the upcoming third-party inspection requirements. On February 14, 2014 MassDEP promulgated revisions to 310 CMR 19.000, the Solid Waste Management regulations. Changes to third party inspections standardize the frequency of inspections, establish a performance standard for inspections and require third-party inspectors (TPIs) to register with MassDEP. In order to complete their registration all TPIs must complete an application form and, if to be eligible to conduct third party waste ban inspections, attend one of MassDEP's waste ban training sessions. The last currently scheduled training is scheduled for September 23 in Worcester, and more information can be found [here](#). A list of registered TPIs is posted on MassDEP's website [here](#). The new Operations and Maintenance Report, Waste Ban Compliance Report, and Corrective Action Form are currently being developed for TPI reporting purposes. The final forms will be posted on October 2014. TPI

inspections under the new regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2015. Comments will be accepted until September 23 and can be sent to Paul Emond at [paul.emond@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.emond@state.ma.us).

#### Questions & Discussion

*Q: What is the definition of “third party” under the regulations?*

A third-party inspector is an outside consultant paid by the solid waste facility to conduct these inspections. They cannot be a MassDEP employee or an employee of the solid waste facility.

#### **Summary of RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts for FY14, Lorenzo Macaluso**

Lorenzo Macaluso gave a presentation on the waste diversion assistance delivered in fiscal year 2014 through the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program funded by MassDEP. An overview of the program indicates that there has been a significant increase in food waste diversion assistance compared with past years. In FY12, 69% of assistance was focused on recycling queries, 27% on food waste diversion, and the remaining work focused on reuse. In FY14 these numbers changed to 39% of assistance focused on recycling and 57% on food waste diversion. New website resources include guidance on estimating your food waste, complying with the commercial organics ban, best management practices for food separation programs, and a number of new entries on the Find A Recycler database.

Visits to the RecyclingWorks web site have continued to grow. In FY 2014, there were about 44,000 total visits to the website with an average of 3 pages visited. These numbers are up from just over 13,000 total website visits in FY13. RecyclingWorks hotline calls are also growing steadily. In FY14, RecyclingWorks received 468 calls through the hotline, with over 50% of those focused on composting issues. For the past several months, RecyclingWorks has assisted over 100 entities each month.

The Commercial Food Waste Vendor Fair in 2014 was a success with 53 vendors (plus a waiting list), 300 attendees, and six sponsor organizations. Another positive outcome of the event was that the venue, the Sheraton Framingham, started an off-site composting program with assistance from RecyclingWorks and their hauler, Casella.

Overall, RecyclingWorks provided technical assistance to a total of 92 businesses and institutions in FY14. Lorenzo showed a video case study on one of these businesses, the Gardner Ale House, which can be viewed on the RecyclingWorks website [here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

#### Questions & Discussion

*Q: You mentioned that, on average, website visitors go to multiple pages per visit. What are the top pages visited?*

The top 4 pages visited on the RecyclingWorks website are 1) the homepage, 2) the Find A Recycler database, 3) the main food waste page, and 4) the options for complying with the commercial organics waste ban page.

*Q: How many full-time employees does the Gardner Ale house employ? Since the video mentioned that they would fall under the commercial organics ban, how would this fit in with your estimation guide?*

The Gardner Ale House employs around 75 to 80 people, so it fits in with the estimation guidance in that sense. It's also important to note that the estimation guidance is based on published studies as well as data from individual businesses, so it should generate a solid ballpark estimate of a business's food waste disposal based on industry averages. Most industry sectors have multiple options for estimating food waste generation so using more than one can provide a more complete picture. However, if the business is close to the one ton per week threshold, they may want to consider tracking or measuring their waste to get a more accurate estimation for their specific business operations.

*Q: What is the Gardner Ale House doing with the organic waste generated from their brewing operations?*

The Gardner Ale House is sending their brewery waste, such as spent grains, to the same pig farm as they are using for kitchen scraps. In this case, the RecyclingWorks assistance was focused on their waste separation program within the kitchen, and that portion of their food waste alone is at the 1 ton per week mark.

### **Recycling Dividends Program, Brooke Nash**

Brooke Nash presented on the rollout of MassDEP's new Recycling Dividends Program for municipalities. This program, based on the Municipal Recycling Incentive Program that ended in 2003, rewards communities for having model recycling programs in place. The application was issued in April 2014 as a section of the larger SMRP application, and all qualifying recycling practices were required to be in place by the application due date of June 11, 2014. Municipalities could earn up to 20 points and needed at least 6 points in order to qualify for payouts. Payment brackets were based on the number of households served by the municipal program, with more households equating to higher payouts. There were also two major program categories: drop-off and curbside services.

In the program's first year, 108 municipalities applied and 96 qualified with 6 or more points. Of those qualifying, the highest points earned were 14 points for curbside program and 16 point for drop-off programs. Most qualifying programs were from smaller communities, so there is a need to attract more larger communities to participate. Moving into year two of the program, MassDEP will increase the number of payout brackets, increase the payouts, and keep most of the point categories the same as year one to enable more municipalities to qualify. The next due date for program applications will be in June 2015. For more information on the SMRP program and application, visit MassDEP's website [here](#). For more information on the Recycling Dividends Program and year one results, read MassDEP's press release [here](#).

### **MassDEP Waste Ban Compliance and Enforcement Update, John Fischer**

Waste characterization studies conducted at six Massachusetts municipal waste combustors in 2013 showed that 40% of waste in Massachusetts is existing waste ban materials (not including commercial organic materials). Since then, MassDEP has increased waste ban inspections and have included referrals to the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program on all waste ban letters

and Notices of Noncompliance (NONs). Another regulation change affecting future waste ban enforcement is the decrease in action levels of certain banned materials for solid waste facility waste ban inspections and monitoring, which will go into effect on October 1.

During the period of October 2013 to September 2014, MassDEP conducted over 180 waste ban inspections with an average of over 20 loads per inspection. These inspections resulted in 201 enforcement actions, with 198 NONs and 3 higher level enforcements. In addition, 600 generator letters were sent based on facility data, TPI data, complaints, or lower levels of banned material observed on MassDEP inspections. About 1 in 5 loads inspected by MassDEP require some form of follow-up (NON or letter), and most of these concern cardboard. About 70% of NON recipients have a recycling program in place, and the top reported actions for returning to compliance are education and re-training followed by installing new containers.

Moving forward, MassDEP will continue inspections and expects to conduct 200 inspections annually and see over 5,000 loads per year. Outreach on existing bans as well as the upcoming commercial organics ban will also continue. In addition, solid waste facility action levels on certain existing banned materials will be lowered as of October 1, and TPIs will increase beginning January 1, 2015 due to regulation reforms.

#### Questions & Discussion

*Q: With action levels being lowered, how will you be sure the department isn't overwhelmed with minor waste ban violations and miss the big violators during inspections and follow-up?*

MassDEP has already been following up on waste ban loads below the current action levels, so do not expect these changes to have much effect on the number of loads that MassDEP follows up on. (It is important to note that these action levels are only for purposes of solid waste facility waste ban implementation and that there are no action levels in the waste ban regulations.) MassDEP does expect the new action levels to result in more failed loads being identified in solid waste facility and third party waste ban inspector monitoring, which will lead to more communication with waste haulers and generators.

*Q: Has the department conducted any analysis to determine the increase in workloads due to increases in TPI inspection reports following the regulation changes in January?*

There has not been any analysis done on this specific issue, but MassDEP is aware that these regulation changes will lead to increases in time spent by facility and third party personnel. MassDEP expects to be able to review and follow-up on additional third party inspection data with existing personnel.

#### Next Meeting

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for October 23 from 1:00-3:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of One Winter Street.